

1) HIMSELF EMPLOYED Some of you will be pleased to know that the Colonel is again employed in the Packaging industry. Others will be incredulous. Indeed, what company could have dared to gamble away their reputation and fortune?

2) LOST EQUIPMENT Did anyone manage to pick up and retain an equipment bag in the Parking lot of the Constellation Hotel back in August?? It contained modern clothing and an electric razor inside and belongs to Niel Lorenzen. Please advise if you have it or know where it is. Phone Eric Lorenzen at 416-355-3813.

On a similar topic - did anyone find Mike LeBlanc's powder horn, waist-belt, bayonet & scabbard left on the site of the 'Battle of Montreal'? Please phone Mike if you have them or know where they are. 519-853-1748.

3) NEW PATTERN CARTRIDGE POUCHES APPROVED BY MAJOR GRAY, REGTL HQ, MONTREAL

I am pleased to advise that an improved pattern of pouch has been approved for use in both the 1 & 2Bns. This pattern is known by the name of its designer - Rawle. The pouch is very compact and houses a unique box holding 36 rounds, 18 on the top and 18 on the bottom. This pouch was introduced into North America in 1777 and thus, could not have been our first issue. Specimens of our current, large pattern pouch have apparently not been found in North America; therefore, although approved for use by the BAR in 1975, there is now some doubt as to its authenticity for North American use. That is, no one is saying that it's wrong, but.....

The use of either the current pattern or the Rawle pattern pouch will be acceptable in the 1Bn. 2Bn troops will be expected to have both a Belly Box & a Rawle in keeping with information recently received regarding late war issues of both items for all troops. The old pattern pouch will not be used in the 2Bn. (Of interest, the Rawle pouch is standard issue in the Canadian Fencibles)

The Rawle pouch mounts a one piece buff sling which attaches to the bottom of the pouch by two small buckles. It does not mount a GR plate. The closure for securing the flap is a push-through tab over a brass post. Much better than our current method which is so subject to malfunction or breakage.

As it is possible for men who are part of both Yorker battalions and/or the Fencibles to have one pouch for all uses, any member who wishes to trade in his current pattern pouch for a Rawle may do so at an even trade subject to availability.

(I am advised by Capt McDonell that his Grenadiers will want to retain their current pouches as these have much brass to keep polished thus providing a sign of their more soldierly bearing to the rest of the troops. Lt James is grumbling.)

4) GREEN & BLUE RUGBY SHIRT WITH KRR NY CREST Catherine Crocco has a source for custom embroidered shirts at a cost of \$49.00 + tax. She requires an order for 18 or more before being able to proceed. If you are interested in obtaining one of these quality shirts, phone Catherine at 416-497-5120.

5) CUSTOM MADE, PERIOD PATTERN BUCKLED SHOES Our order for these shoes is still stalled with the maker who is backordered for 12 months. We've been in the line-up and can expect deliver for next campaign. The following persons are listed with this order: Gavin A. Watt; Ken & Cecile Paterson; Stuart Mann; Jon Wannamaker; David Moore; Frank Packer; Johan Klyndyk & Rick Pepin.

Should any of these listed members wish to withdraw their order, please promptly advise me by phone at 833-6435. We have the ability to add to this order before year's end, so anyone who wishes to add to this order, please send me a completed form ASAP. If you don't have a form, give me a call and I will mail one.

6) THE FILM - DIVIDED LOYALTIES Current date for release is in early February, likely the 12th. Air Canada is so pleased with what they have seen that they are picking up the full tab. Normally, a two hour show has about 96 minutes of action, the balance being advertisements. Our film had 127 minutes after the first cut; so there is a serious problem. Apparently, they will extend greater than the 96 minute format, but, there will still be a lot of material on the cutting room floor.

I was at the studios to do some additional dialogue - that's putting in sounds where the originally recorded track seems to be lacking for quality or quantity. So, I got to see a number of scenes on the 'big screen'. Wow! I have lost all objectivity about this movie. It's just great. Very prominent in the little parts that I saw were Eric Lorenzen, Brian McHugh, Robert Land and Dave Moore. McHugh looked heroic as a mean, nasty Butler's Ranger watching his Captain writhing on the ground after Brant knocked him down. Moore looked vaguely amused about it all. Land quite contemplative. Lorenzen as a Serjeant at Ft Stanwix in white wig and tiny cocked hat was a Lobster-back dandy.

The battle scenes are very good. Remember that the Militia only goes up that damn hill once - the ambush by the extended Yorker line is convincing although the advance to the brow of the hill is confused. Our three cheers are resounding - so good that they use it twice.

Some of the squibs are brutal. That long, long day for the Montreal battle is over in a violent, screaming blink. We don't even get to see LeBlanc's cut knee or Land playing a pancake. The massacre at Cherry Valley is quite horrifyingly real.

We will get a completed version on VHS tape and we are promised a crude copy of all of the battle scenes, including much of what will be cut.

7) A REPRINT FROM THE BRIGADE COURIER ex Newbolt, Sir Henry, The Story of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (London: 1915), pp. 42-44.

Commentary by Sir Martin Hunter- Surprising the rebels at Paoli 1777:

"As soon as it was dark the whole battalion got under arms, MajGenl Grey then came up to the battalion and told Maj Maitland, who commanded, that the battalion was going on a night expedition to try and surprise a camp, and that if any man were loaded they must immediately draw their pieces. The Maj said the whole battalion were always loaded, and that if he would only allow them to remain so, he would be answerable that they did not fire a shot. The Genl then said if he could place that dependence on the battalion they should remain loaded, but that firing might be attended with very serious consequences. We remained loaded, and marched at eight in the evening to surprise Genl Wayne's camp.

We did not meet a patrol or vidette (mounted outpost) of the enemy till within a mile or two of the camp, when our advanced guard was challenged by two videttes. They challenged twice, fired, and galloped off full speed. A little further on there was a blacksmith's forge: a party was immediately sent to bring the blacksmith, and he informed us that the piquet was only a few hundred yards up the road. He was ordered to conduct us to the camp: and we had not marched a quarter of a mile when the piquet challenged, fired a volley and retreated. Genl Grey then came to the head of the battalion and cried out, 'Dash on, Light Infantry!' and without saying a word the whole battalion dashed into the wood, and guided by the straggling fire of the piquet, that was followed close up, we entered the camp, and gave such a cheer as made the wood echo.

The enemy were completely surprised, some with arms and others without, running in all directions in the utmost confusion. The light infantry bayoneted every man they came up with. The camp was immediately set on fire, and this and the cries of the wounded formed altogether one of the most dreadful

7) PAOLI, 1777 cont'd

scenes I ever beheld. Every man that fired was instantly put to death. Capt Wolfe was killed, and I received a shot in my right hand soon after we entered the camp. I saw the fellow present at me, and was running up to him when he fired. He was immediately killed. The enemy were pursued for two miles. I kept up till I got faint from loss of blood and was obliged to sit down."

I felt this was worth repeating to us Yorkers as it so well illustrated one of the standard tactics of the period - a night attack using the bayonet only. Of course, to be successful, the tactic required superb discipline and tremendous courage.

8) AN INTERESTING EXCERPT FROM GUNS & AMMO MAGAZINE courtesy the 64th Regt Newsletter, 'The Black Knot'.

"The Tower of London Arsenal came up with the Long Land Pattern Musket or 'Brown Bess' around 1720. It was the best of its time; having the handling ability of what passed for fowling pieces of the era.

Weighing ten pounds and measuring 62 inches overall - barrel 46 inches - Brown Bess was able to burn most of the 163 grains of powder that drove its (roughly) .69 caliber ball down the .76 caliber (11 bore) tube. Careful analysis of test firings of original and replica Besses give approximate ballistics of 1550 foot-pounds muzzle energy and 1300 feet per second with a 370 grain ball. The remarkable reliability of the Tower lock and loose fit of ball to bore, meant that the British soldier could fire six shots a minute until powder fouling really choked the barrel, then five or four per minute. Compared with powders of Cromwell's day, powder in use by 1776 improved very little in power. It had remained in the 9 to 10 foot-pound per grain area. A maximum load in British, French, or US flintlock muskets of the Revolutionary War period could be a 500 grain soft lead ball fired with as much as 190 grains of powder. Velocities varied from about 1000 to 1500 fps, with the average closer to 1200. Muzzle energy with this was about 1600 foot-pounds. This shows a relative drop in power per grain to 8.5 foot-pounds, probably attributable to the need for large quantities of almost any powder to sustain both sides during the period.

Up until 1750 or so, few paper cartridges were made for use by Colonists. The American shooter, especially riflemen, would experiment to ascertain the correct charge for his own gun. A snowy day was always good for this activity. Firing prone, he could gradually raise charges until unburned powder grains appeared in the snow in front of the muzzle. At the same time, the effect of the ball was gauged on targets placed at appropriate hunting ranges. The best compromise was a load that did not waste powder, was particularly accurate and penetrated well. A measure was carved or improvised then and kept with the powder horn.

By 1777, Continental troops were given paper wrapped cartridges whenever possible. These (often) included buckshot, added to increase effectiveness. Powder was either French or American made. Manufacture of ingredients of greater purity led to considerable reduction of powder charges without reducing ballistic power.

The US black powder formula used during the Revolution was a very standard 75.2% nitre (ie. potassium nitrate or saltpetre), 13.5% charcoal and 11.3% sulphur. This was slightly lower in nitrates than older formulas, and proves that corning (rendering into granular form) methods and chemical purity had further progressed. The Colonies produced some 815,000 pounds of gunpowder during the war, including some made from nearly 500,000 pounds of saltpeter imported from France in 1777. Although the first native American powder mill was at Milton, Massachusetts sometime prior to the Revolution, soon scores of others came and went. By 1773, there was a fledgling saltpeter extraction

8) GUNPOWDER & CARTRIDGES cont'd
industry alive. It contributed 115,000 pounds of the Continental Army's powder."

For comparison, here's a table of some well known modern cartridges.

RIFLE	CALIBRE	BARREL LENGTH	MUZZLE VELOCITY	MUZZLE ENERGY
Long Land Bess	.75	46 inch	1200 ft/sec	1600 ft-lbs
Lee Enfield	.303	24 inch	2400 ft/sec	2360 ft-lbs
FN C1-A1	.30 (7.62)	24 inch	2700 ft/sec	2650 ft-lbs
M-16A1	.223 (5.56)	20 inch	3240 ft/sec	1280 ft-lbs

Of course, the tremendous ballistic advantage of modern weapons is the stability of the bullet and therefore its effective range. While the Lee Enfield and C1-A1 rifles can be accurately fired out to beyond 500 yds by competent marksmen and the M-16 to 400+, the Brown Bess with the best marksmen is a 100 yd weapon. With the large frontal area of the round ball, its energy is rapidly lost. The 'slop' of the ball in the barrel means poor accuracy, unlike the very precise fit of modern rifle bullets which securely grip the bore and remain stable due to the spiralling spin given by the rifling.

9) SOME ROYAL YORKER HISTORY - A letter written by 1Bn Grenadier Captain John McDonell to Maj Mathews, Gov Haldimand's secretary. HP AddMss 21822 p.129.

"Major Mathews
Sir

Montreal 12Dec1783

I am a little embarrassed upon account of some arms of the Company I brought into Oswego to join Sir John Johnson's Regt in 1777 - I met Sir John at Said place under the Command of Brgrdr StLeger, going to the Siege of Fort Stanwix, he ordered me to go into the Country to raise my Compny. I went accordingly raised, and armed fifty four men, fought my way, left my little property, and which was Dearest of all, my weak family to the mercy of enraged Enemies, joined my Regt then at Oswego upon the retreat, came to Canada, was ordered without loss of time to Ticonderoga, where I was by a Regtl order to deliver the arms I brought in into the Regimental Store, and to receive Kings Arms - Lt Gumersal then acting QuarterMaster whose receipt I send you inclosed received thirty six Guns, the rest the owners kept & sold afterwards as they pleased - Upon the Evacuation of Mount Independence and Ticonderoga, these arms with many more were sent to Canada, and delivered into the Genl Stores at St Johns or Chamblie, the receipt granted to the Officer in whose Charge mine were is some how mislaid the Owners apply to me for payment which compells me to address you, that you would please speak to his Excellency in my behalf, that value may be ordered to be remitted to Sir John, or to me to Satisfy those whose property they were, by so doing you will have the pleasure of doing an act of justice and obliging him, who has the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient humble Sert

John McDonell"

10) A PREVIEW FOR CAMPAIGN 1990 - MAKE A NOTE NOW!!

As THE celebration for our 15th Anniversary of the recreated King's Royal Yorkers and the 210th Anniversary of the Raid into the Schoharie and Mohawk Valleys by the KRR NY, Butler's, etc... we will stage a THREE DAY event over the weekend, October 6, 7 & 8 which is our Thanksgiving and the US Columbus Day holidays. We will consider a Bus if we get full seat subscription.